

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01806 291251Z
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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 1806

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, DA
SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER STRIKE ENTERS NINTH WEEK

REF: COPENHAGEN 0633

SUMMARY: THE DANISH LABOR COURT HAS RULE FOR THE SECOND TIME THAT THE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY THE PUBLISHER OF BERLINGSKE TIDENDE ARE IN VIOLATION OF THEIR CONTRACT BY REFUSING TO RETURN TO WORK. MANAGEMENT HAS ISSUED DISMISSAL NOTICE TO THE APPROX 1000 TYPOGRAPHER AND LITOGRAPHERS, BUT THEIR SPOKESMEN HAVE REJECTED THESE NOTICE AND DECLARED THAT THE EMPLOYER HAS LOCKED THEM OUT AS A FURTHER STEP IN A LABOR CONFLICT. THEY HAVE FURTHER DECLARED THEIR REFUSAL TO REPORT TO THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR JOB REFERRAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCE THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION. THE CONFLICT HAS ENTERED INTS NINTH WEEK, LEAVING COPENHAGEN WITHOUT ITS MOST IMPORTANT NEWSPAPER AND CAUSING UNREST IN OTHER PUBLISHING ENTERPRISES. END SUMMARY:

1. THE DANISH LABOR COURT RULED FOR THE SECOND TIME THURSDAY, MARCH 24, THAT THE TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
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AT BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (PUBLISHER ALSO OF ANOTHER DAILY AS WELL AS OTHER WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES) VIOLATED THEIR LABOR CONTRACT BY REFUSING TO RESUME WORK. FOR THE TSECOND TIME, THE COURT IMPOSED INDIVIDUAL FINES ON THE WORKERS AS WELL AS ON THEIR TRADE UNIONS AND URGED THE WORKERS TO TAKE UP THEIR JOBS AGAIN. FOR THE SECOND TIME THEY

REFUSED.

2. ON MARCH 26 THE BERLINGSKE MANAGEMENT ISSUED DISMISSAL NOTICES TO THE APPROX 1000 TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN THE DISPUTE. THE WORKERS WERE INFORMED THAT THEIR TERMINATION PAY WOULD BE CALCULATED AND DISBURSED PRIOR TO APRIL 1. SPOKESMEN FOR THE WORKERS HAVE REJECTED THE DISMISSAL NOTICE AND DECLARED THAT THE EMPLOYER, IN THE COURSE OF A LABOR DISPUTE, HAS LOCKED THEM OUT OF THEIR WORK PLACE. THEY WILL SEEK FORMAL RECOGNITION OF THEIR POSITION FROM THE LABOR COURT AND, IN THE MEANTIME, WILL NOT REPORT TO THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR JOB REFERRAL. THIS MEANS THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION. THE CONFLICT HAS ENTERED ITS NINTH WEEK AND A SOLUTION IS NOT IN SIGHT.

3. COMMENT: THE CONFLICT AT BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, AS HAS BEEN REPORTED (SEE REFTEL), HAS TO DO WITH JOB PROTECTION AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY. TRADE UNION SOURCES IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY COMMENT THAT THUS FAR MANAGEMENT HAS PLAYED ITS CARDS VERY SHREWDLY AND HAS THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE LABOR COURT AND CONTRACT SYSTEM ON ITS SIDE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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